

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-162. (cancelled)

163. (previously presented) A method for producing a catalyst support comprising:

- (a) providing a plurality of single-wall carbon nanotubes;
- (b) contacting an end of at least some of the single-wall carbon nanotubes of the plurality with at least one catalytic metal, wherein the catalytic metal comprises a Group VI metal; and
- (c) activating the catalytic metal.

164. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 wherein the Group VI metal is selected from the group consisting of chromium (Cr), molybdenum (Mo), and tungsten (W).

165. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 further comprising removing an end cap from the end of at least some of the single-wall carbon nanotubes.

166. (previously presented) The method of claim 165 wherein the end caps are removed by an oxidative treatment.

167. (previously presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the oxidative treatment comprises a technique selected from the group consisting of oxidative etching, electrochemical oxidative etching and combinations thereof.

168. (previously presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the oxidative treatment comprises the use of a chemical selected from the group consisting of nitric acid, oxygen, carbon dioxide and combinations thereof.

169. (previously presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the oxidative treatment is conducted at a temperature at at most about 500°C.
170. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 further comprising cutting the single-wall carbon nanotubes.
171. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 wherein the catalytic metal is deposited on the single-wall carbon nanotubes.
172. (previously presented) The method of claim 171 wherein the catalytic metal is deposited by a deposition method selected from the group consisting of deposition of a metal vapor in a vacuum, deposition of pre-formed catalyst particles, deposition of a catalyst precursor and combinations thereof.
173. (previously presented) The method of claim 172 wherein the deposition of the metal vapor is done by heating at least one wire comprising the catalytic metal.
174. (previously presented) The method of claim 172 wherein the catalyst precursor is a substance selected from the group consisting of an oxide, salt, metal complex and combinations thereof.
175. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 wherein the activating of the catalytic metal is by heating.
176. (previously presented) The method of claim 175 wherein the heating is localized at the ends of the single-wall carbon nanotubes of the plurality.
177. (previously presented) The method of claim 175 wherein the heating is at a temperature in a range between about 500°C and about 1300°C.
178. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 wherein the activating of the catalytic metal produces metal atom clusters comprising from about 10 to about 200 metal atoms.

179. (previously presented) The method of claim 178 wherein the metal atom clusters are located at the ends of the single-wall nanotubes.
180. (previously presented) The method of claim 163 wherein the plurality of single-wall carbon nanotubes is a cross section of a previously-grown fiber.
181. (currently amended) A composition comprising a catalytic metal supported on at least one single-wall carbon nanotube, wherein the catalytic metal is a ~~Group VI metal~~ selected from the group consisting of chromium (Cr) and tungsten (W).
182. (cancelled)